

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL BICYCLE TASK FORCE AND PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

Tuesday, August 19, 2003 - 1:30 p.m.
MAG Office Building, Suite 200 - Cholla Room
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Tami Ryall, Chair, Regional Bicycle Task Force	Reed Kempton, Maricopa County
*Bruce Meyers, ADOA Gen. Services	*Karen Flores, Peoria
Michael Eagan, Az. Soc. Landscape Architects	Katherine Wisheart, Phoenix
Anna Roedler, City of Avondale	Briana Leon, Phoenix
Jack Hoff for Bill Lazenby, Coalition for Arizona Bicyclists	*Shawny Chadwell, Queen Creek
+Michael Normand for Michael Ohland, Chandler	Randi Alcott, RPTA
*Steve Hancock, Glendale	Aaron Iverson, Scottsdale
Janeen Holloman, Goodyear	Eric Iwersen, Tempe
*Mike Cartsonis, Litchfield Park	

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

+Attended via audioconference.

OTHERS PRESENT

Maureen DeCindis, MAG
Roger Herzog, MAG
Lynn Timmons, Phoenix

1. Call to Order

Chairman Tami Ryall called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

2. Approval of the July 15, 2003 Meeting Minutes of the Pedestrian Working Group and the Regional Bicycle Task Force.

Eric Iwersen moved to approve the meeting minutes of the July 15, 2003 meeting of the Pedestrian Working Group and the Regional Bicycle Task Force. Reed Kempton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the Pedestrian Working Group and the MAG Regional Bike Task Force. Citizens were requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments.

Jack Hobbs, representing the Coalition for Arizona Bicyclists, reported that the Coalition has been very active contacting representatives in Washington D.C. to ensure that funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects for enhancements in 2004 is reinstalled.

4. Staff Report

Maureen DeCindis reported that MAG had received two letters from prospective Regional Bicycle Task Force and Pedestrian Working Group members. One is from a representative of the health community (the Arizona Department of Health Services) and the other is from the safety and injury prevention community (Phoenix Children's Hospital). A copy of each letter and resume will be sent to committee members in the next agenda packet for discussion and action.

Maureen DeCindis noted that Scott Hamilton, City of Scottsdale, called to say that Scottsdale is planning on holding "Senior Trail Day" again this year and would like to know if any other cities are considering this as well. The cities of Tempe, Gilbert, Chandler and Maricopa County expressed interest. MAG staff will send an email to absent members to ascertain their interest and then set up a planning meeting.

Kelly LaRosa from City of Peoria mailed information on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning and Facilities Workshop put on by the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety. The committee had requested the information to ascertain the feasibility of sponsoring this workshop. The committee did not express interest in sponsoring these workshops.

Maureen DeCindis reminded committee members that the final Enhancement applications are due to MAG on Friday August 29, 2003.

5. Member Agency Report

Janeen Holloman reported on some of the lessons learned by the City of Goodyear in the process of implementing their pedestrian design assistance grant. The city had not requested sufficient funding to cover some of the unanticipated costs such as the need for an alta survey. The city records for the older properties was inadequate. Also, the current property owners are refusing to dedicate right of way without monetary compensation. The city is hoping to seek enough funds within the enhancement grant to compensate the land owners.

Mike Normand reported that Chandler is working with Arizona Department of Transportation on their three and half mile western canal improvements connecting east/west corridor on the north part of the city between Mesa and Tempe. Chandler is going out to bid for a design consultant.

Reed Kempton announced the public meetings scheduled in Mesa, Phoenix and Queen Creek to seek public input on the next section of the county trail system from Spur Cross to the Santan. It is hoped to send this planning effort to the County Board of Supervisors in October.

6. Revised Schedule for the FY 2004 Pedestrian Design Assistance Program

As part of the FY 2003 MAG Federal Funds Interim Close-Out Process, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Council approved, on June 25, 2003, accelerating \$200,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding from 2007 to provide additional funding for the Pedestrian Design Assistance Program. These funds will be used as part of the FY 2004 pedestrian program for the design of demonstration projects which implement the MAG *Pedestrian Area Policies and Design Guidelines*. As requested at the meeting of the Regional Bicycle Task Force and Pedestrian Working Group on July 15, 2003, the tentative schedule for the FY 2004 Pedestrian Design Assistance Program has been revised. The schedule was reviewed and accepted.

7. Review the Regional Transportation Plan: Final Draft Stage

Under the direction of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC), a new Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) has been developed for the MAG area. This plan will provide the blueprint for future transportation investments in the regional for the next several decades. The committee reviewed the draft plan and discussed comments.

Eric Iwersen commented that the document should emphasize that street and freeway projects should include bike and pedestrian facilities.

Tami Ryall pointed out that the letter sent to the TPC dated February 5, 2003 from both committees clearly states that bicycling and walking should be institutionalized. "In summary, we would like to see a policy that institutionalizes bicycle and pedestrian elements by incorporating them into every federally and regionally funded transportation project, according to nationally accepted design standards and guidelines previously adopted by Regional Council."

Reed Kempton said that Maricopa County Department of Transportation is making significant comments to the Regional Plan. The county would like to see bicycle/pedestrian component in the sales tax.

Anna Roedler agreed with Eric Iwersen that policy language incorporating bicycle/pedestrian into every transportation element should be added to the Plan.

Aaron Iverson also agreed with Eric Iwersen and suggested that a sentence should be added under each Draft Hybrid Plan Component mentioning how bicycle/pedestrian would be incorporated into their projects.

Mike Normand emphasized the need for a separate section for a general policy statement reinforcing the need for bicycle and pedestrian transportation. For example, in Chandler, transit is working to include bicycles.

Janeen Holloman strongly supported including a sentence within each category. Briana Leon agreed.

Tami Ryall asked Roger Herzog how to best approach getting the committees comments to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). Roger Herzog replied that MAG hasn't had committees formally comment on the Plan. Roger Herzog suggested that a letter to chair of TPC would be appropriate.

Tami Ryall asked what the timeline is for public comment. Roger Herzog responded that comments were requested to be received within 30 days of publication (July 29, 2003). Therefore, comments should be due about August 29, 2003. The last public meeting is September 10, 2003. The next TPC meeting is September 17, 2003.

Tami Ryall allowed Lynn Timmons to comment. Lynn Timmons pointed out that the citizens at public hearings and at the public comment time during the TPC meetings have verbally expressed an interest that bicycle/pedestrian projects be included in the one-half cent sales tax extension. Regional projects like corridors to major destinations, routes on the ROSS plan and bridges, should have a designated portion of the one-half cent sales tax funding. It is important to give people the opportunity to make the choice.

Eric Iwersen reiterated Lynn Timmons comments and pointed out that it would be best to get a specified percentage of the sales tax extension.

Tami Ryall suggested that MAG staff construct a letter that would be approved by committee members outlining the recommendations discussed.

Eric Iwersen made a motion to have the approved letter sent to the TPC before August 29, 2003. Janeen Holloman seconded the motion.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Pedestrian Working Group will be on September 16, 2003.